

PREPARE

Lightning, flooding rains, large hail and severe wind gusts can turn a fun afternoon at the park or campground into a dangerous adventure. If unprepared, a fast approaching storm can become deadly. It's important that you and your family understand what to do if a storm approaches.



Know the answers to these questions:

- ✓ What county and city are you visiting?
- ✓ Where will you go if threatening weather is approaching?
- ✓ How will you find out if a storm is moving toward your area?
- ✓ How will you receive warnings and forecasts before the storm strikes?

The time to prepare for severe weather is before the storms hit.

WHAT TO LISTEN FOR

Weather **Watch**:

A watch is issued when conditions become favorable for severe weather; it does not necessarily mean it is going to happen. Watch the sky and stay tuned for later forecasts and possible warnings.

Weather **Warning**:

A warning is issued when severe weather is occurring or is imminent. Now is the time to take action!

HOW TO RECEIVE WEATHER INFORMATION

NOAA Weather Radio is the best way to receive forecasts and warnings from the National Weather Service. Most of Wisconsin is covered by one of seven frequencies. Weather radios are available at many electronics stores.

Severe weather forecasts and warnings are passed to local radio and television stations as well.

Staying safe in severe weather cannot happen unless you stay informed.



National Weather Service Green Bay JKLI/11-98
www.crh.noaa.gov/gb

PLAYING IT SAFE

Severe Weather Information for Parks and Campgrounds

National Weather Service
Green Bay, Wisconsin



For more information contact:

LIGHTNING

Lightning occurs with all thunderstorms. People who are outdoors, especially near tall trees, in or on water, or on or near hilltops are most at risk.

It is a myth that if it is not raining, there is no danger from lightning. Lightning often strikes outside heavy rain and may occur as far as 10 miles away from any rainfall. If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be struck by lightning.

When a storm approaches...

- ☞ Move to a sturdy building or car.
- ☞ Do not take shelter in small sheds, under isolated trees, or in convertible automobiles.
- ☞ Get out of boats and away from water.

If caught outdoors and no shelter is available...

- ☞ Find a low spot away from trees, fences and poles.
- ☞ If in the woods, take shelter under the shorter trees.

FLASH FLOODS

Heavy rain can quickly turn small streams into raging rivers. Most flash flooding is caused by slow-moving thunderstorms, or storms repeatedly moving over the same area. Topography, soil conditions, and ground cover also play a role.

It is important that you identify an area safe from flooding. Avoid camping or parking along streams, particularly during threatening conditions.

If flooding is occurring or a warning is issued...

- ☞ Go to higher ground, but beware of lightning.
- ☞ Do not attempt to cross flowing streams.
- ☞ Never drive through flooded roadways.
- ☞ Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to recognize flood dangers.
- ☞ Monitor NOAA Weather radio or the local Emergency Alert System station for the latest information.

THUNDERSTORM WINDS AND TORNADOES

Thunderstorms can also produce strong winds and tornadoes. Winds in excess of 50 mph can topple trees and overturn tents and campers. Tornadoes can have winds over 100 mph, creating a narrow but deadly path of destruction.

It is a myth that hills or lakes provide protection from severe weather. All of Wisconsin is vulnerable to Mother Nature's fury.

When a severe storm approaches or a warning is issued...

- ☞ Campers and mobile homes offer little protection from tornadoes and severe winds. They should be abandoned.
- ☞ Move to a pre-designated shelter. Go to the lowest floor and stay away from windows.
- ☞ If caught outside and a tornado is approaching, lie flat in a nearby ditch.
- ☞ Monitor NOAA Weather radio or the local Emergency Alert System station for the latest information.